

**Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce**  
**Testimony regarding HB 5021: An Act Concerning Competitive Alcoholic Liquor Pricing**  
**and Hours of Operation for Permittees**

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic business organization with over 2400 members that employ over 50,000 people. We are writing you today concerned about certain provisions in HB 5021: An Act Concerning Competitive Alcoholic Liquor Pricing and Hours of Operation for Permittees.

The backbone of our economy and our economic recovery are the small and micro businesses in the state of Connecticut. The elimination of minimum bottle pricing and the elimination of the ban on quantity discounts could have a significant impact on small businesses and their ability to compete in the marketplace. There is also concern within the small business community in Middlesex County about the proposed changes to the permitting and licensing process for package stores. Larger and more capitalized companies will have the ability to expand their presence in the marketplace at a rate that the smaller independent package stores cannot sustain. Smaller package stores have made decisions and investments based upon a set of long standing laws and regulations in Connecticut and these proposed changes would significantly alter the competitive landscape.

These small businesses are a major economic driver in our state and support thousands of jobs. We respectfully ask that the General Law Committee and the General Assembly proceed with caution, employ a balanced approach and pursue a workable compromise on this bill. The smaller package stores in this state and the jobs they support are critical to an economic recovery. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.